

confined to any one geographic, socio-economic, or other type of demographic. Rather, this epidemic is ravaging communities all around our country.

How did this epidemic start? Let's go back to 2012, when there were more opioid prescriptions in my home state of Ohio than there were people. Prescriptions to opioids were handed out like candy, and there was little-to-no regulation on these highly-addictive drugs. Someone could sustain a simple injury—say, to their knee or their back—perhaps even have surgery, and be prescribed highly-addictive opioids for their pain. With no oversight, Americans everywhere were slowly becoming addicted to these substances, with their tolerance levels increasing, therefore requiring them to take higher doses to experience the same level of pain relief. Of course, these drugs are not cheap. Often times, when the drugs become too costly or a prescription ran out, these now-addicted opioid users would turn to street drugs, such as heroin, to feed their addiction. In Ohio, four out of five heroin addicts began their drug use with prescription painkillers.

Often times, once an addiction starts, it's near impossible to break the cycle. Truly, the best way to treat addiction is to stop it before it even starts. Of course, we know now that opioid addiction is completely preventable, and fighting this growing epidemic will take the work of many committed groups. This multifaceted crisis needs the support of police departments, communities, families and schools, government at all levels, and the medical and science communities. That's where the EFFORT Act comes in.

This critical piece of legislation will direct the National Science Foundation to study the effects of the opioid epidemic and will require this body to consult with the National Institute of Health—and vice versa—in their research of opioid addiction. I'm a firm believer that research is one of the most important tools in fighting illnesses like addiction. Of course, this is just one of many pieces in the vast puzzle of putting an end to the opioid epidemic. This bill is a step in the right direction, and we need to continue our efforts to fight this epidemic. I am proud to cosponsor the EFFORT Act, and I thank my colleague from Virginia, Congresswoman JENNIFER WEXTON for introducing this critical legislation. I urge my colleagues to pass H.R. 3153 so our country can better prevent opioid addiction.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF ANDREW LAVOIE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Lavoie, Chief of the Nashua Police Department, for his service and leadership to the Department for 32 years, the last four and a half years as Chief.

Over the span of Chief Lavoie's career, he has taken on numerous roles within the Nashua Police Department, whether it was attacking the opioid crisis from the law enforcement perspective by making many arrests or standing with his community to protect and serve.

Chief Lavoie has been a leading and respected voice in the Granite State advocating for the Safe Station Program and forming the Nashua Community Conversations on Race and Justice, which have enhanced relationships between police and Nashua's diverse population amongst other accomplishments. I commend Chief Lavoie on his retirement after three decades of work in public service.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, congratulations to Chief Andrew Lavoie for a well-deserved retirement. I thank him for his service and wish him the very best in the years to come.

CELEBRATING THE ROBINSON WESTBROOKS FAMILY 109TH FAMILY REUNION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Robinson Westbrooks family who will be celebrating their 109th family reunion in Los Angeles, California on August 16–18, 2019. Each year, the Robinson Westbrooks family gets together for the oldest ongoing registered family reunion in the United States.

It all started with Mr. John Bolin Robinson, Mrs. Dora Anne Westbrooks Robinson, and their youngest child, Leonard Wilbert Robinson, who all share a birthday of August 16.

Their coinciding birthdays led to the tradition of getting the family together every third Sunday in August to celebrate family unity and the blessings of God. The first official Robinson Westbrooks Family Reunion was held on August 16, 1910 in Eclectic, Alabama, making this year the 109th celebration.

The Robinson Westbrooks family makes the most out of their annual family gatherings throughout the United States. They are registered at the United States Library of Congress.

This year the family celebrates their oldest family members, Mrs. Queenie Elizabeth Thompson-Hunter, age 93, of Detroit, Michigan, Mrs. Clara Dora Thompson-Smith, age 92, of Detroit, Michigan, and Mr. Charlie Anderson Brown, age 96, of Eclectic, Alabama.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Alabama, I extend best wishes to the Westbrooks family. I hope this tradition continues for many years to come.

HONORING CAPTAIN AARON HATTA BAUGH AND OPERATION SENIOR SURPRISE

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Aaron Hattabaugh, a retired captain and B-52 navigator, for taking part in the longest combat mission in Air Force history.

On January 16, 1991, Captain Hattabaugh and fifty-six other airmen aboard seven B-52G

aircraft of the 596th Bombardment Squadron took off from Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana on Operation Senior Surprise. However, those who took part named their mission Operation Secret Squirrel.

This was the United States' first move to liberate Kuwait from Saddam Hussein. Using state of the art air launched cruise missiles, these brave airmen had one objective: to destroy Hussein's strategic assets in Iraq and Kuwait. Over the course of this mission, the aircraft destroyed nearly all of the targets and blinded the Iraqi military to our ground forces, in turn saving countless American lives. Incredible, these aircraft completed four in-air refueling maneuvers and covered 14,000 nautical miles in under 36 hours.

This year marks the 28th anniversary of "Operation Secret Squirrel" and each year, those involved in this historic mission gather to remember their piece of history made. In the longest mission since the Doolittle Raids on Japan, these aviators carried out their mission with honor and bravery.

Madam Speaker, those who served on this mission displayed true endurance and dedication to country in their actions. It is my honor to recognize Captain Hattabaugh and the fifty-six others who took part in this critical mission.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RANDY CORBIN, OWNER OF CORBIN COLONIAL CHAPEL FUNERAL HOME, "MAYOR OF MADISON STREET"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of my constituents, and a personal friend, Mr. Randy Corbin who migrated from Arkansas, came to Chicago and established a business and lived a wonderfully productive life. Randy grew up in Gould, Arkansas, came to Chicago, attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science. Married his queen, Karen Kennedy and they raised four children, two sons Amell and Loren, two daughters Clarressa and Syreeta. He served in the U.S. Army, and was honorably discharged in 1964. Randy started his career as a janitor at AA Rayner Funeral Home and worked his way through the ranks with successive promotions.

In 1977, Randy partnered with a friend, Luther Sparks and they started the Luther Sparks Funeral Home. Unfortunately, Mr. Sparks died and Randy became the sole proprietor and the rest became history. Randy built a successful business, was generously supportive of community activities. He started other business ventures, provided leadership to the community and earned the title, "Mayor of Madison Street". Randy was a member of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association, a leadership member of the Boy Scouts of America, he sponsored local basketball teams and students pursuing education. He hosted school supply drives, donated volumes of supplies to youth and families throughout the years. He regularly donated to churches and let ministers use Corbin Chapel for services. He is survived by his wife Karen and their four children, his sister, fourteen grandchildren, five great grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.